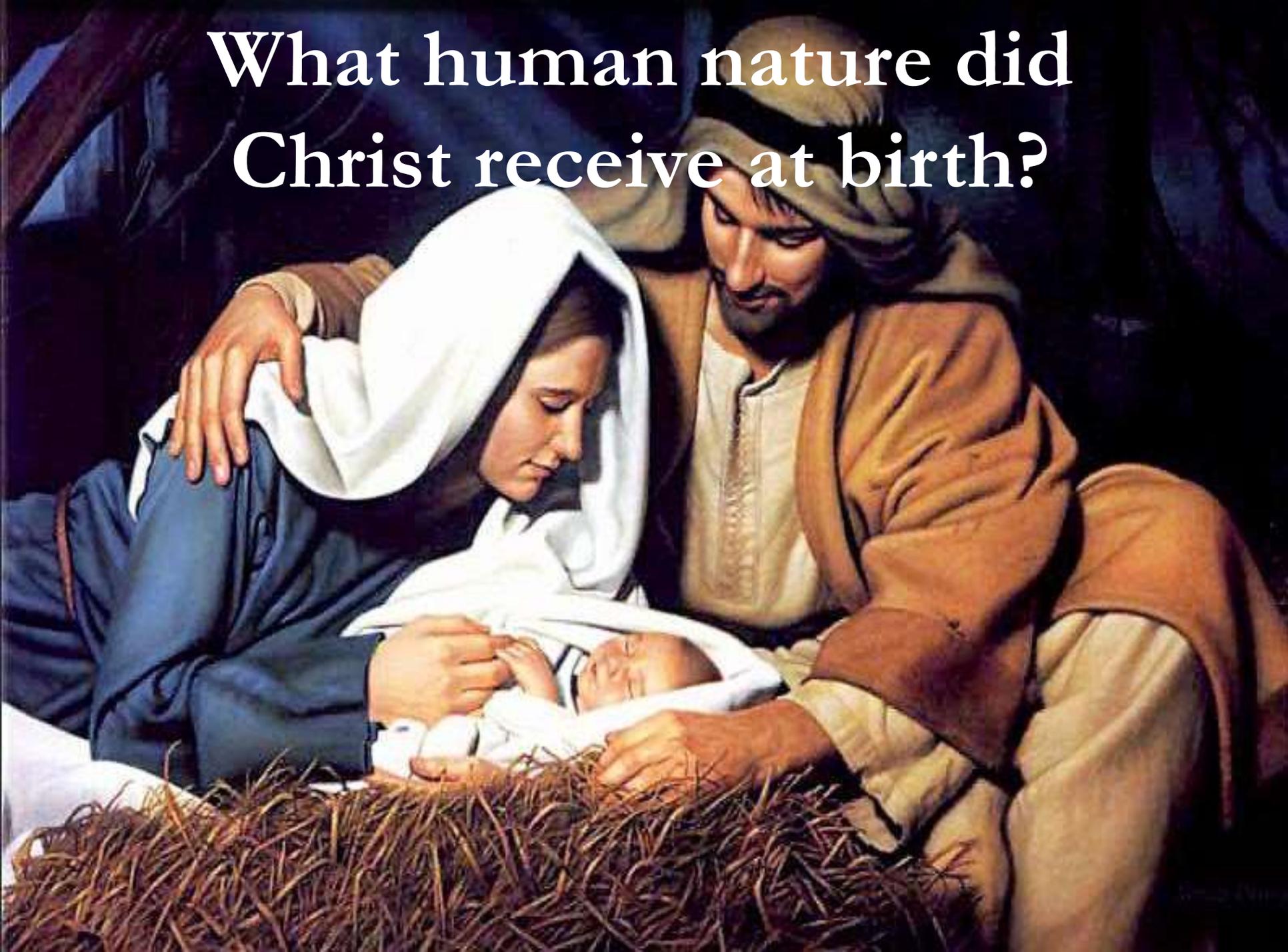


*The Human Nature
of Christ
and
Righteousness
by
Faith*



Lecture Series: By Christopher Harrison

What human nature did
Christ receive at birth?



Options Available

Adam's Nature before the fall,

Adam's Nature after the fall with exemptions

Adam's Nature after the fall without exemptions



THE FIRST THING WE MUST ESTABLISH IS

What kind of body did Jesus receive?



**Was Christ literal flesh
or a simulation of
flesh?**



John 1:1-3...14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.....14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us



Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:



1 John 4:2-3

Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.



2 John 1:7

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.



Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross

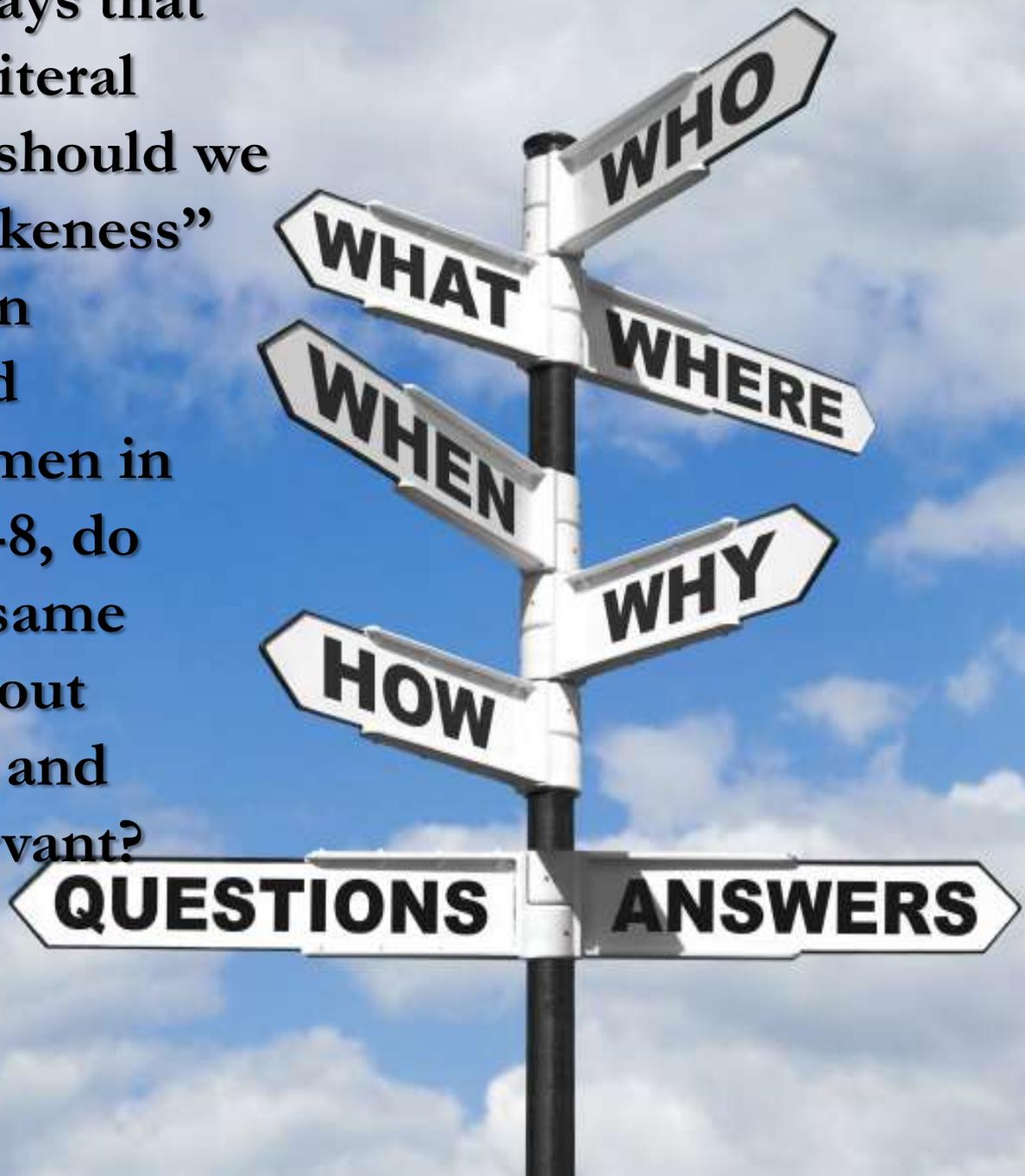


*A human body and a
human mind were
His. He was bone of
our bone and flesh of
our flesh.*

*{Manuscript Releases
Volume 6 pg 111.2}*



The scripture says that Jesus received literal flesh. But how should we understand “Likeness” of sinful flesh in Romans 8:3 and “Likeness” of men in Philippians 2:5-8, do they mean the same thing? What about “form” of God and “form” of a servant?



Romans 8:3 & Philippians 2:5-8



Paul says that Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh. Sinful flesh is not difficult to understand, it is what we possess, but what does the word “likeness” mean in this context? Does it mean to only look like, to have a resemblance to, or does it mean actually like, the same as?

Paul also says that Jesus came in the likeness of men; men, meaning mankind, humanity. Does likeness in Philippians 2:5-8 mean to only look like, to have a resemblance to, or does it mean actually like, the same as?

Based on the usage of the term “likeness” in both texts written by the same author, speaking on the same subject, what should we understand “likeness” to mean?

Philippians 2:5-8



Paul also says that Jesus made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant (In the Greek *Doulos* meaning slave). What does he mean when he uses the word “form”. We must be consistent, because earlier in the verse he also says “ Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God”. Was he really equal with God? Yes he was. Hence “form” in both instances must have the same connotation, or the entire statement would be contradictory

ACTUAL MAN OR NOT?

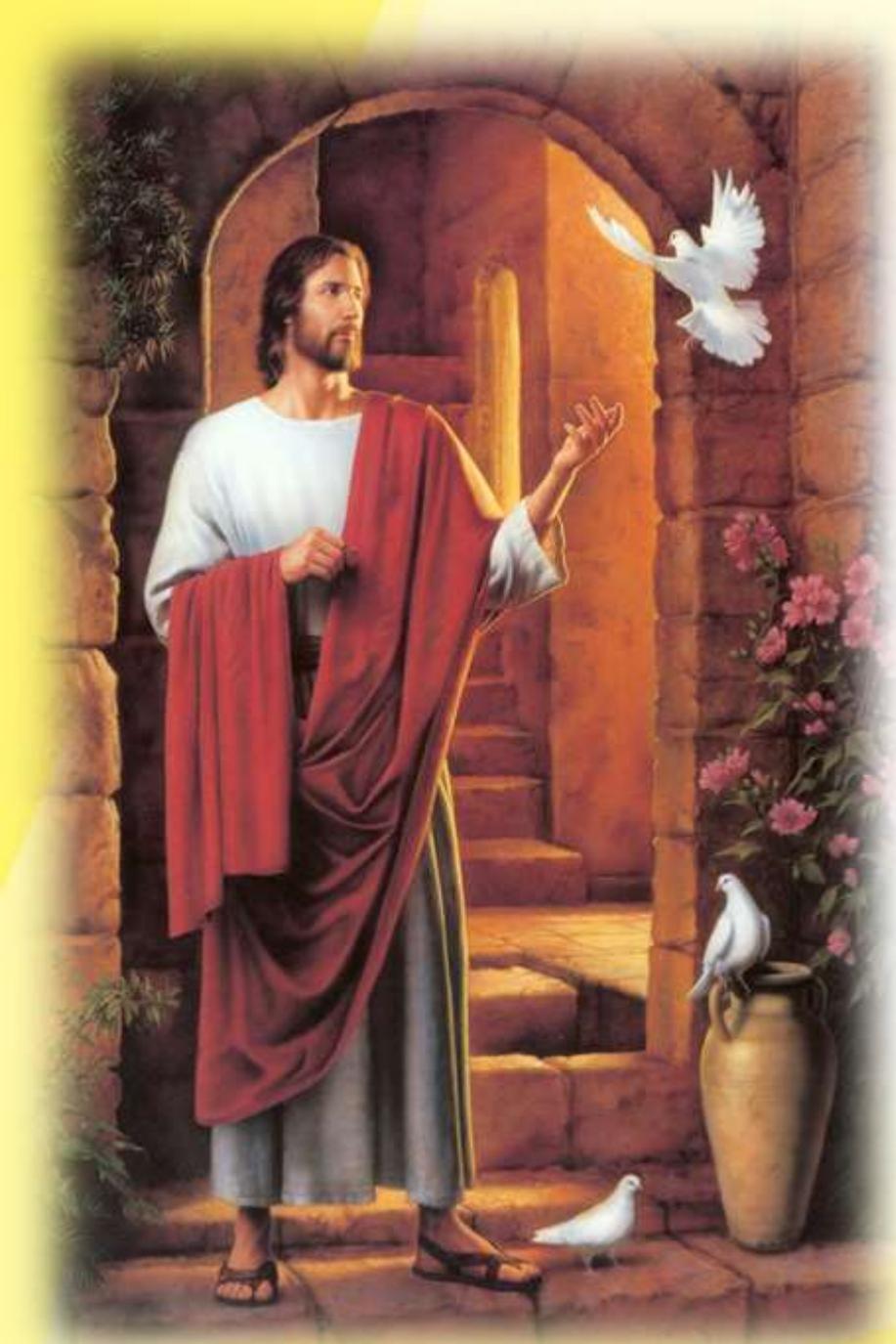
Was he an actual man, with actual flesh and blood, with human limitations and weaknesses, inherited through his mother, or does it mean to only look like a man, have a resemblance of a man, in the image of a man, but really something else. Such as Angels when they appeared on earth.





Angels were in the **“likeness of men”** when they appeared on earth, (Appearing to Abraham Sarah) However they were not limited and degraded by sin. They were not susceptible to temptations as fallen human beings are.

If “likeness of sinful flesh” means only to look like sinful flesh then “Likeness of men” must also mean only to look like a man just as angels were when they appeared on earth.



John has dismissed any notion that the flesh which Christ was manifested in was artificial. (Such as Angels when they appeared) He has emphatically said that the flesh of Christ is real, and anyone who disbelieves this fact has the spirit of Anti-Christ. “Likeness” then must mean the same thing in both texts, actual, the same as, or else John would have contradicted Paul and Paul would have contradicted himself (In Romans 8:3 and Philippians 2:5-8).

The words which follow “likeness”; “sinful flesh” and “men” are also equivalent as far as Paul is concerned. Paul was speaking on the same topic in both instances, the humanity of Christ, and what he received through the incarnation. We will look at further texts to support this conclusion.

Hebrews 2:16

For verily he took
not on *him* the
nature of angels;
but he took on *him*
the *seed* of
Abraham.



DOCETISM

The belief that Jesus was in a look-a-like body and not a real body is called Docetism. It is the erroneous belief that Christ only seemed to be human, that He did not really have a body of a human, flesh and blood.

Docetism, (from Greek *dokein*, “to seem”),

Christian heresy and one of the earliest Christian sectarian doctrines, affirming that Christ did not have a real or natural body during his life on earth but only an apparent or phantom one. Though its incipient forms are alluded to in the New Testament, such as in the Letters of John (e.g., 1 John 4:1–3; 2 John 7), Docetism became more fully developed as an important doctrinal position of Gnosticism, a religious dualist system of belief arising in the 2nd century ad which held that matter was evil and the spirit good.

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)





STRONGS CONCORDANCE

Strong's Number: G4561

Flesh=Sarx (*sarx*) in the Greek New Testament

Word: sarx

Pronounce: *sarx*

Origin: human nature (with its frailties (physically or morally) and passions), or (specially), a human being



“The flesh” that is referred to in John Chapter 1 and 1st & 2nd John is definite article. “The flesh” that John and Paul spoke of was the flesh which existed at that present time when they spoke, sinful flesh (As defined by the Greek meaning and origin of the word Sarx). Neither John nor Paul made any references to any “exempted flesh” or to “Adam’s flesh before the fall”, as neither flesh existed when they spoke on the subject.



This exempted flesh doctrine was created outside of the scriptures. (Catholic Tradition) John was making his best effort to set the record straight, on Jesus' incarnation to those who promoted the teaching of (Docetism) that Jesus did not come in "The Flesh"



Paul in Philippians 2:5-8 says that Christ received the form of a servant or in the Greek (doulou: meaning slave). The pre-fall Adam did not have a servant (slave) form nor was he in the likeness of sinful flesh. Nothing about his form or nature was compromised or in any way in slavery. However, after sin, it became that way. And that compromised nature was passed on to all his descendants.



Hebrews 2:14,16-18

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.



Hebrews 2:14,16-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, *he also himself likewise* took part of the same;

Look at the emphasis by redundancy which Paul places on the fact that Jesus took the same flesh and blood which children take. He, *also, himself, likewise* took part of the same.

Any one of those three words on its own would have been sufficient, but through redundancy Paul is trying to make a critical point. What is the point? Jesus took part of the same flesh and blood as all children do.

Jesus' flesh and blood came through Abraham's seed and David's seed, Mary, who had a fallen nature. The bible and Spirit of Prophecy speaks of no exemptions within that flesh and blood which Jesus received. There is no scripture which speaks to a partial acceptance of the nature which comes through that blood and flesh.



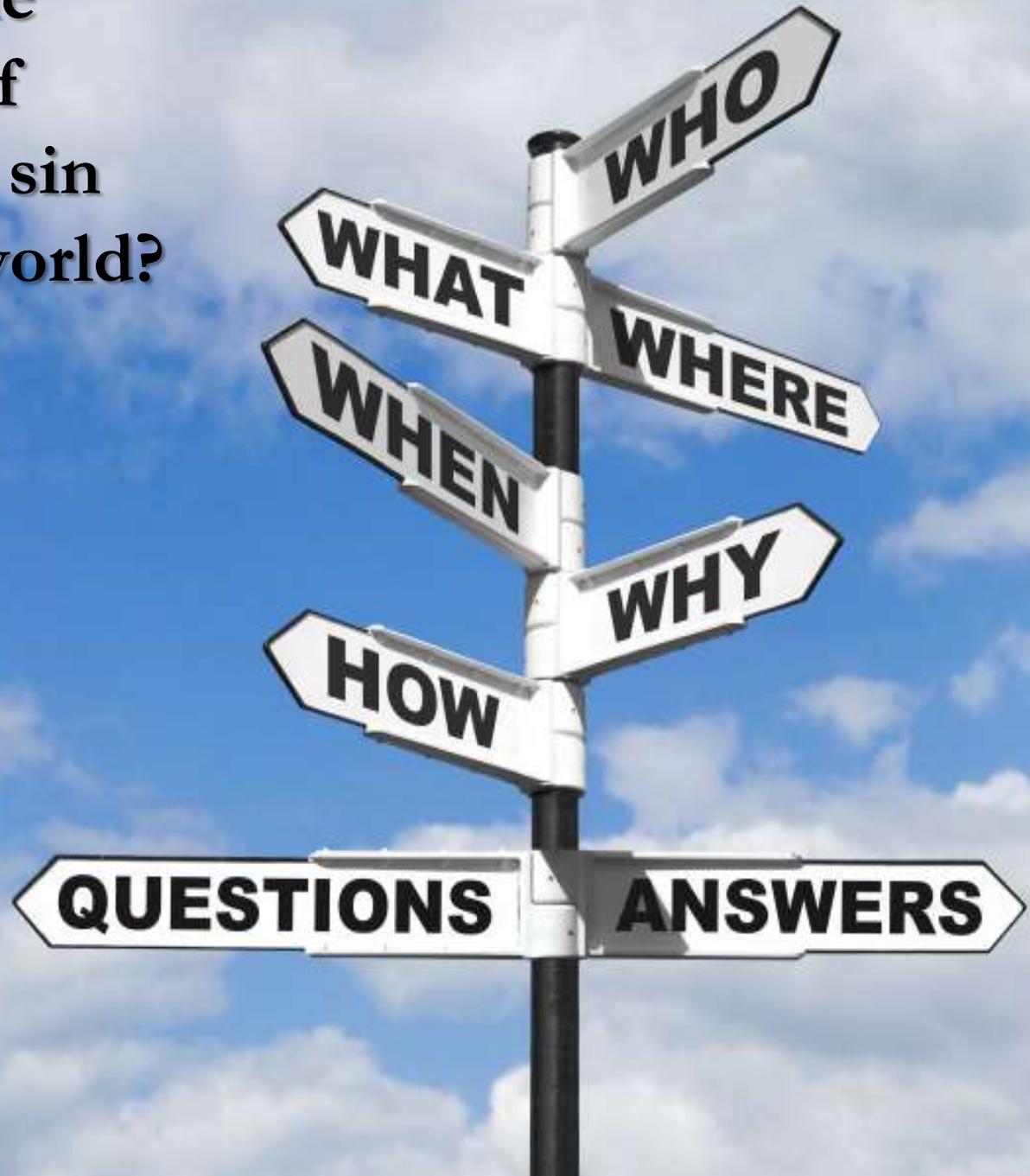
What did he hope
to accomplish?





Christ knew that Adam in Eden, with his superior advantages, might have withstood the temptations of Satan, and conquered him. Review and Herald, August 18, 1874

What were the advantages of Adam before sin entered the world?





Adam's Advantages before the fall

- 1) A perfect environment where all his needs were readily and sufficiently supplied
- 2) Perfect faculties mental and physical

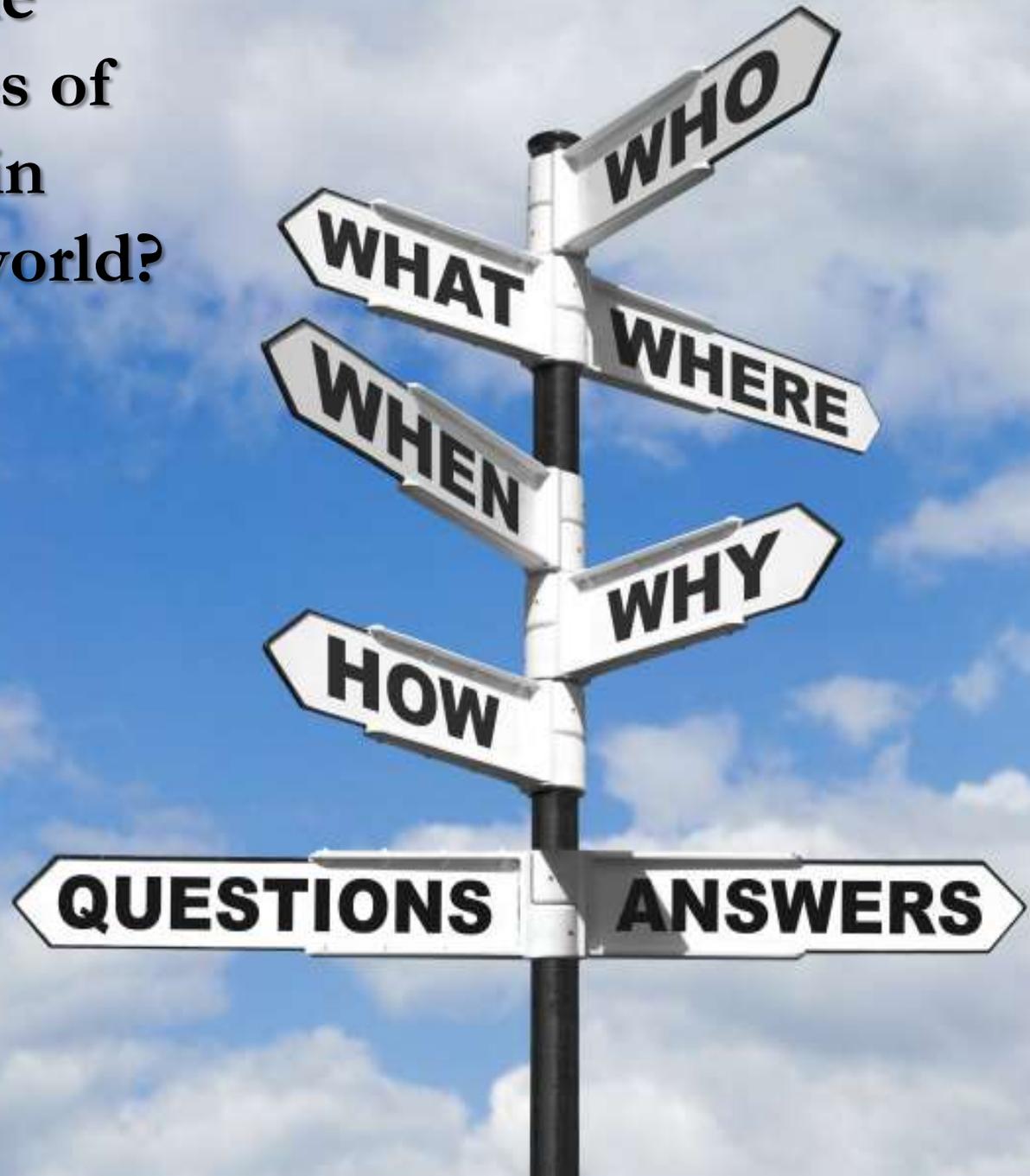
Made directly from the hand of God Adam had;

- 1) A natural instinct and ability to obey the will of God with no internal inclination to disobedience.
- 2) No need to learn righteousness
- 3) No need for an external source of mental and spiritual strength to live righteously



He (Jesus) also knew that it was not possible for man, out of Eden, separated from the light and love of God since the Fall, to resist the temptations of Satan in his own strength. {Review and Herald, August 18, 1874}

What were the disadvantages of Adam after sin entered the world?





Adam's disadvantages after the fall

1) An imperfect environment where he must work to supply his needs

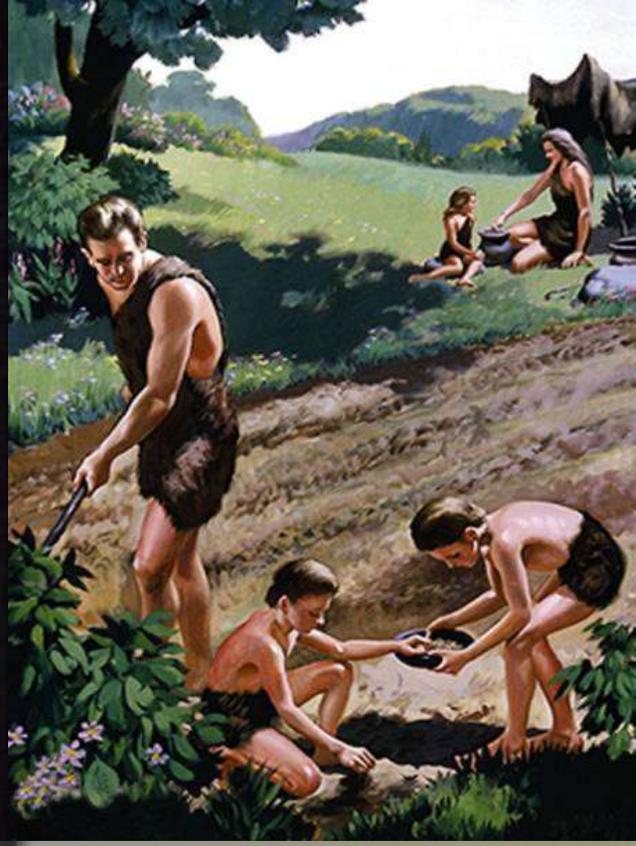
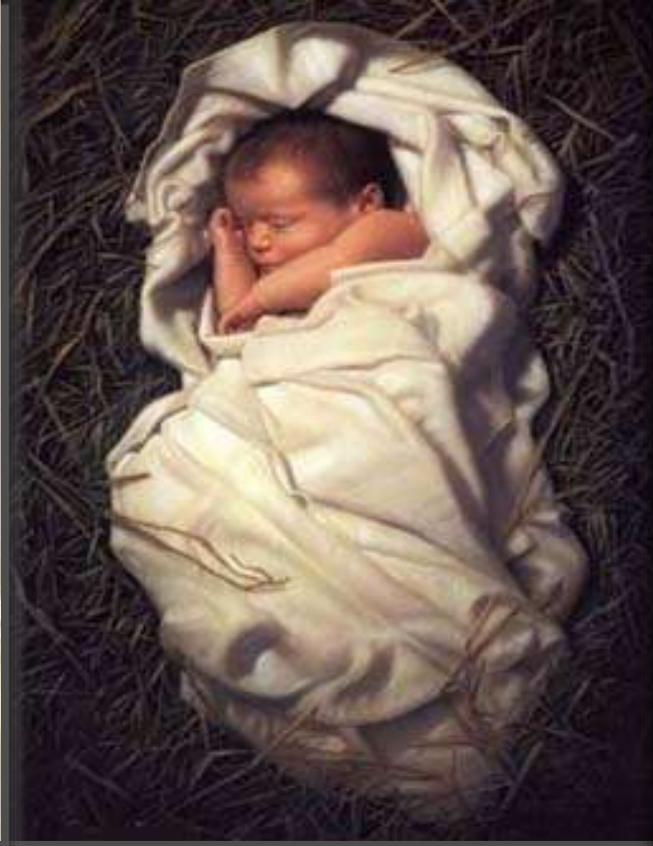
2) Impaired faculties, mental and physical

Tainted by the effects of sin Adam has;

1) A natural instinct to do his own will, an inclination to disobedience.

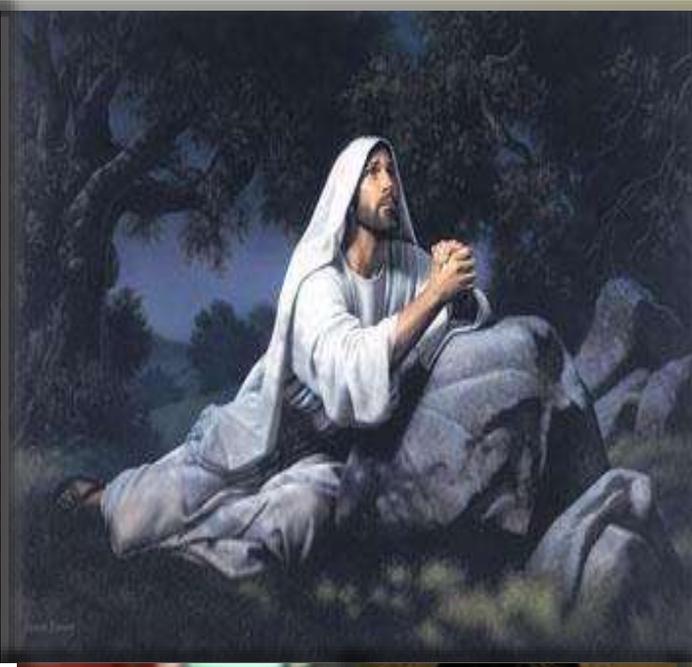
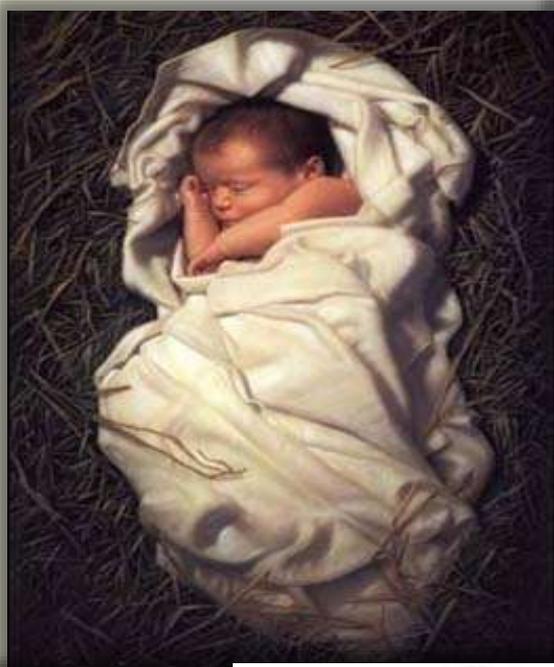
2) Passed on these disadvantages to his descendants. His offspring must be taught righteousness.

3) A need of an external source for mental and spiritual strength to live righteously

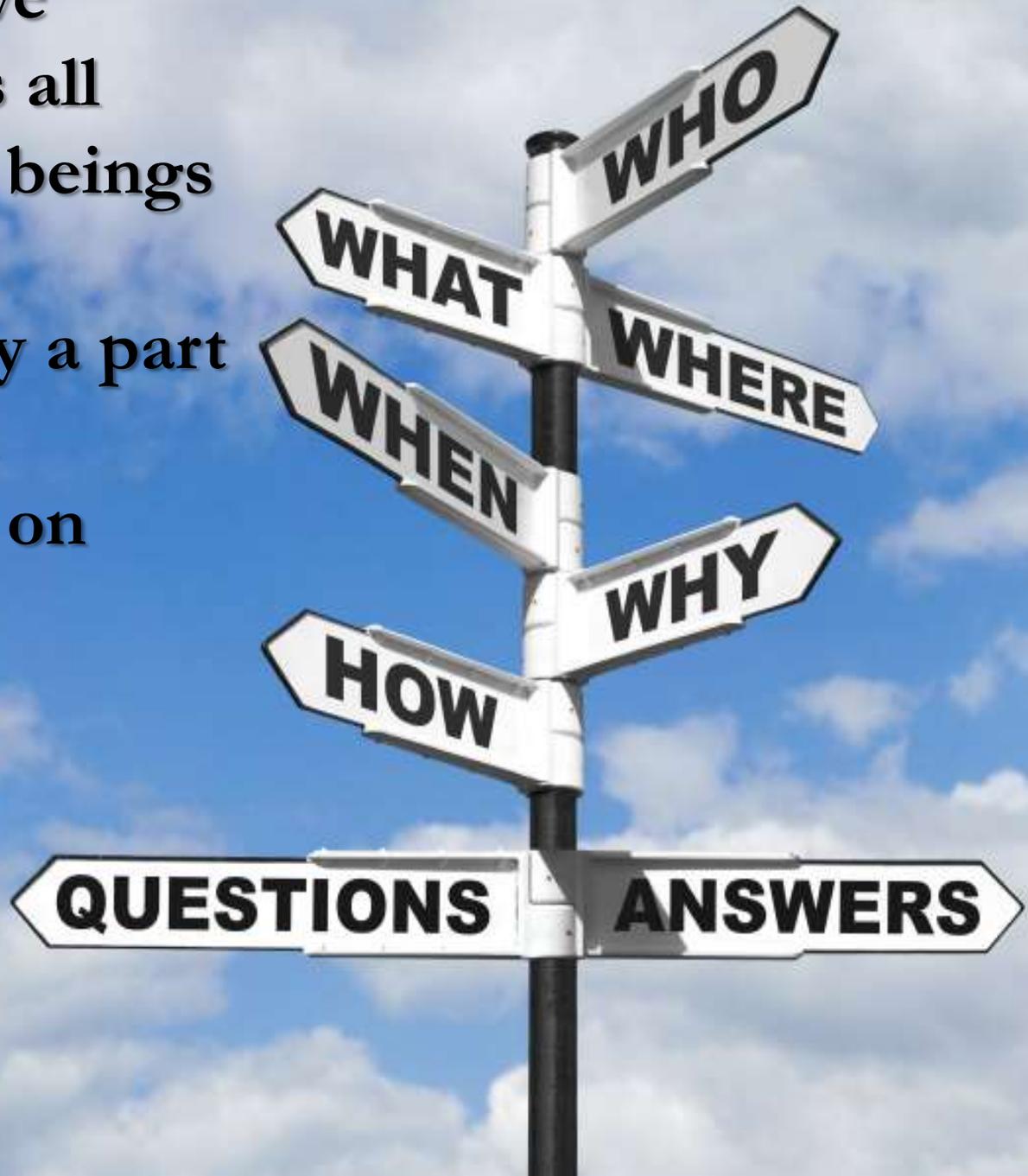


In order to bring hope to man, and save him from complete ruin, He humbled Himself to take mans nature, that, with His divine power combined with the human, He might reach man where he is. {Review and Herald, August 18, 1874}

He obtains for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam that strength which it is impossible for them to gain for themselves, that in His name they may overcome the temptations of Satan." {Review and Herald, August 18, 1874}



Did Jesus have limitations as all other human beings do, or did his Godhood play a part in his human development on earth?



LIMITATIONS OF JESUS THROUGH THE INCARNATION

Godly Attributes laid aside



Omniscience Knowledge of the past

It is the capacity to know everything that there is to know. Having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things.

Luke 2:52 And **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature**, and in favour with God and man

The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother's knee. (The Desire of Ages pg 70.1)



Omniscience Knowledge of the past

Isaiah 7:14, 15. Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.15. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good

(Butter) The hidden knowledge of God's words and (honey) His Law shall he (eat) study that he may know to refuse evil and choose good.

Psalm 119: 11. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for God was His instructor. (The Desire of Ages pg 70.1)



Omniscience
knowledge of the
future

Mark 13:32. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father



The Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. (The Desire of Ages pg 208)

Omnipotence

All powerful not lacking in strength or any abilities

He rested not in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the "master of earth and sea and sky" that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down and He says, "I can of mine own self do nothing." John 5:30. (The Desire of Ages pg 336)

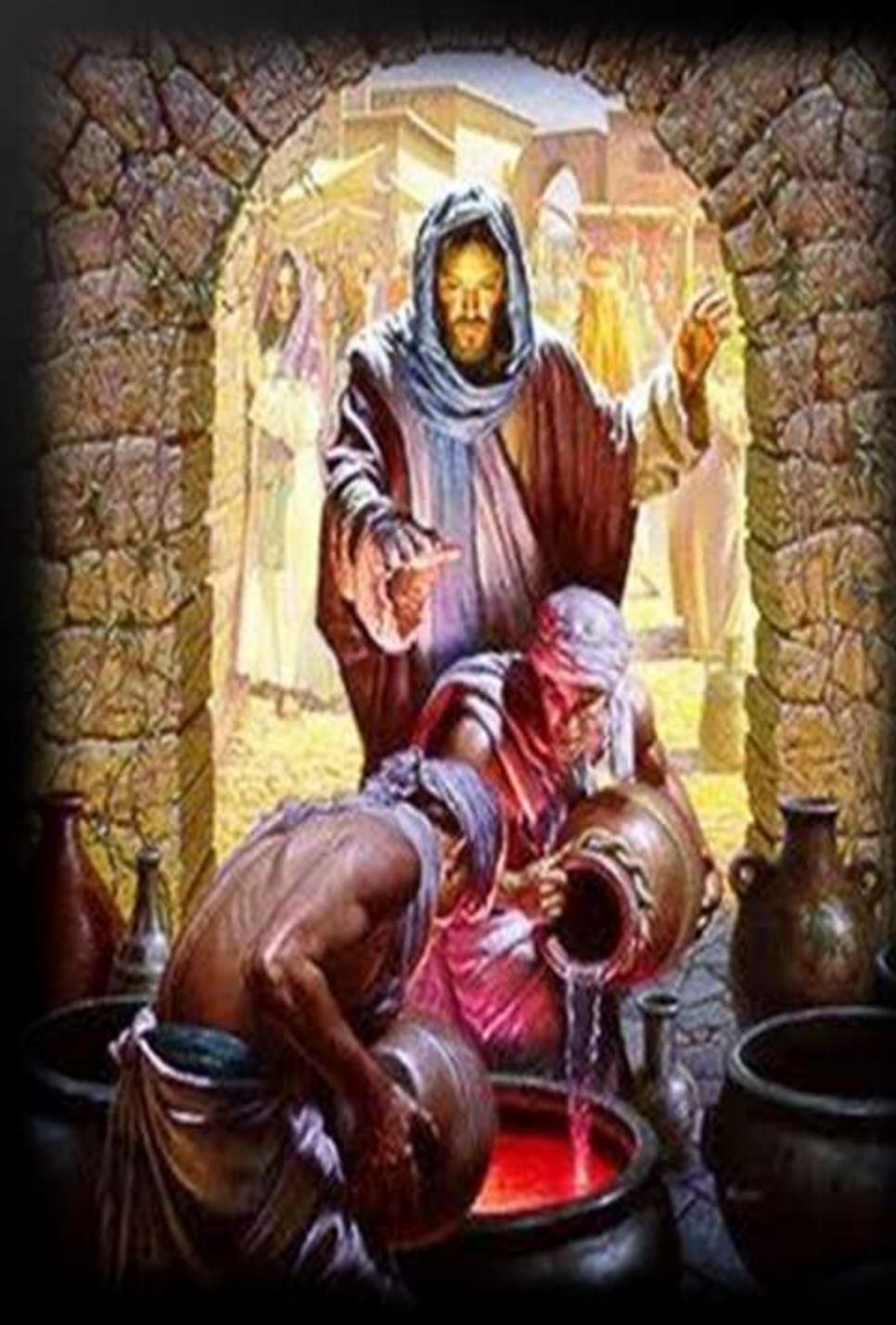


Omnipotence

All powerful not lacking in strength or any abilities

He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith—faith in God's love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God
(The Desire of Ages pg 336)





The words, "mine hour is not yet come," point to the fact that every act of christ's life on earth was in fulfilment of the plan that had existed from the days of eternity, before he came to earth, the plan lay out before him, perfect in all its details, but as he walked among men, he was guided, step by step, by the father's will.

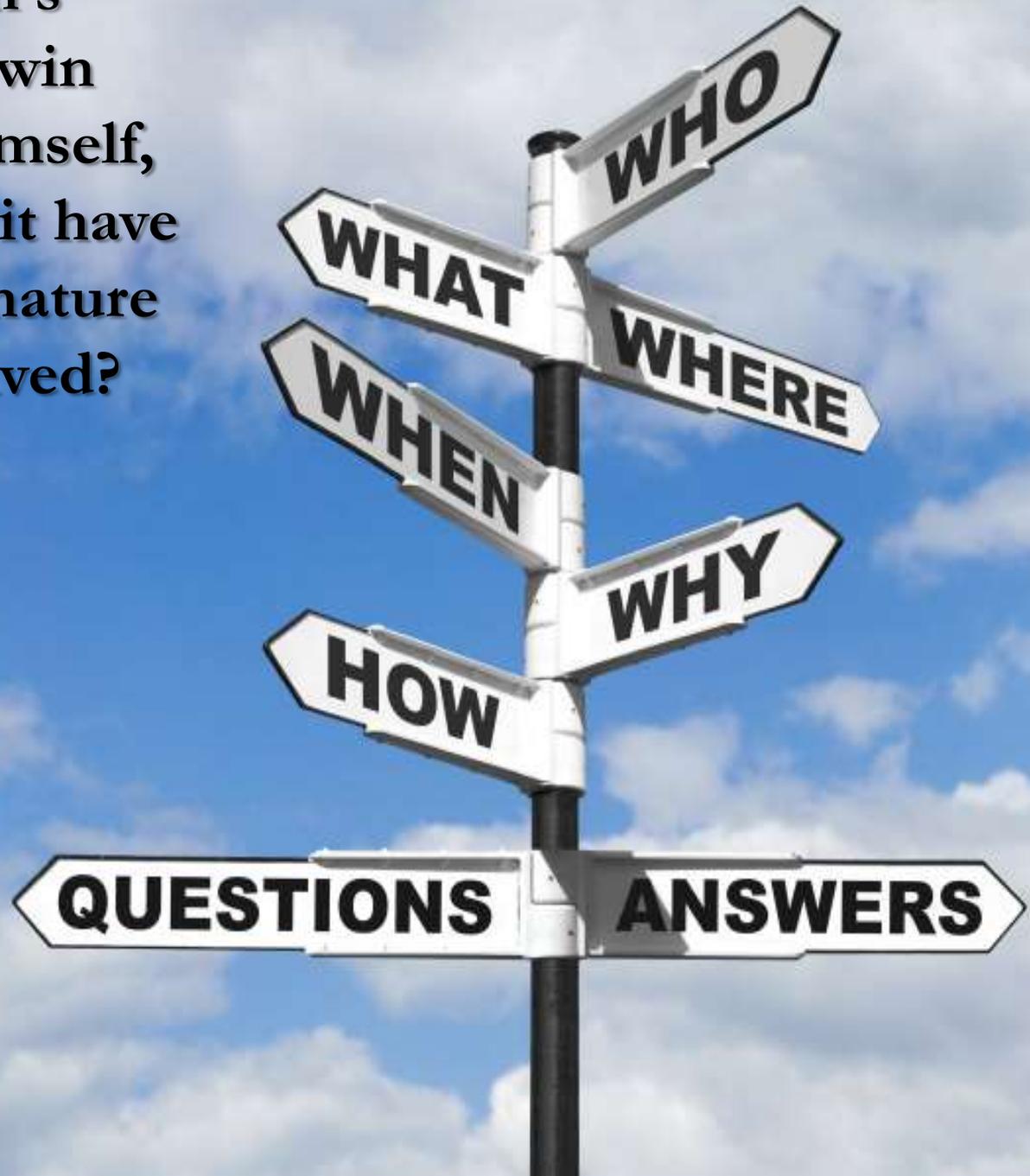
The Desire of Ages pg 147



If Christ had a special power which it is not the privilege of man to have, Satan would have made capitol of this matter."

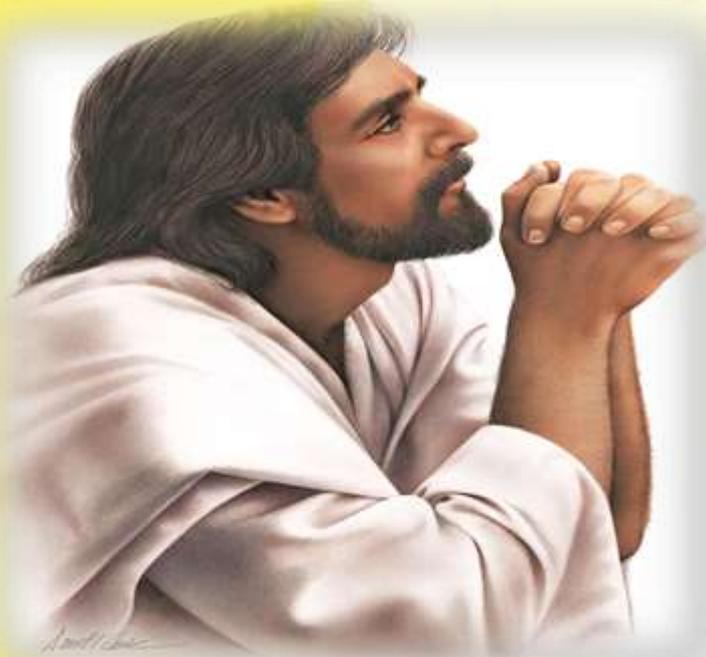
Selected Messages Vol. 3 pg 139

What was Satan's master plan to win humanity to himself, and what does it have to do with the nature that Jesus received?





Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of Heaven, but of all the worlds that he had created; and Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of Heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds. {Great Controversy The origin of evil 497.1}



If Jesus came in Adam's nature before the fall and lived a perfect life as he did, He would have proven that perfect beings like Adam could keep the law of God. But was that Satan's accusation? Was that Satan's charge against God?

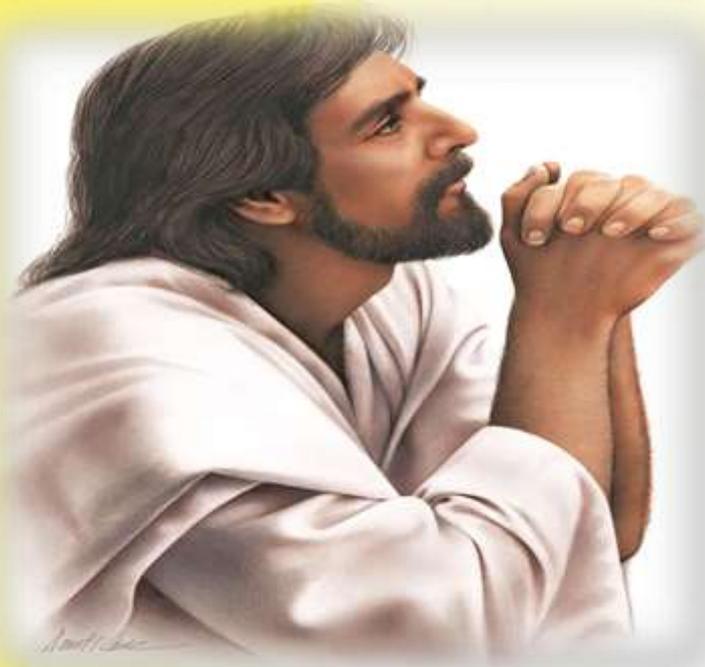
“Satan declared that it was impossible for the sons and daughters of Adam to keep the law of God” {Signs of the Time, January 16, 1896 par. 2}



Logical Reasoning

Satan tried to influence the inhabitants of the other worlds in rebellion. These inhabitants are perfect beings as Adam was. They did not sin and neither did two thirds of the angels in heaven. Isn't that evidence that perfect being can keep the Law of God? They chose to dismiss the devils sophistry and fraud and remain pure and holy.





If Jesus then came to prove that perfect beings can keep the law of God, which was proven already, it would have been an infinite humiliation and a costly effort in futility. Two thirds of the angels in heaven and the perfect beings of the other worlds were evidence enough to prove that perfect beings (Adam, Eve, Lucifer and One third of the Angels) need not sin. Jesus' incarnation was to satisfy the specificity of Satan's accusation, about the sons and daughter of Adam, fallen man, mankind possessing sinful nature.





Christ knew that Adam in Eden, with his superior advantages, might have withstood the temptations of Satan, and conquered him.

Review and Herald, August 18, 1874



Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will.

God's Amazing Grace - Page 129

We would never have learned the meaning of this word “grace” had we not Fallen. God loves the sinless angels who do His service and are obedient to all His commands, but He does not give them grace. These heavenly beings know Naught of grace; they have never needed it, for they have never sinned. Grace is an attribute of God shown to undeserving human beings. My Life Today page 100



To the consecrated worker there is wonderful consolation in the knowledge that even Christ during His life on earth sought His Father daily for fresh supplies of needed grace; and from this communion with God He went forth to strengthen and bless others. Behold the Son of God bowed in prayer to His Father!

Acts of the Apostles page 56

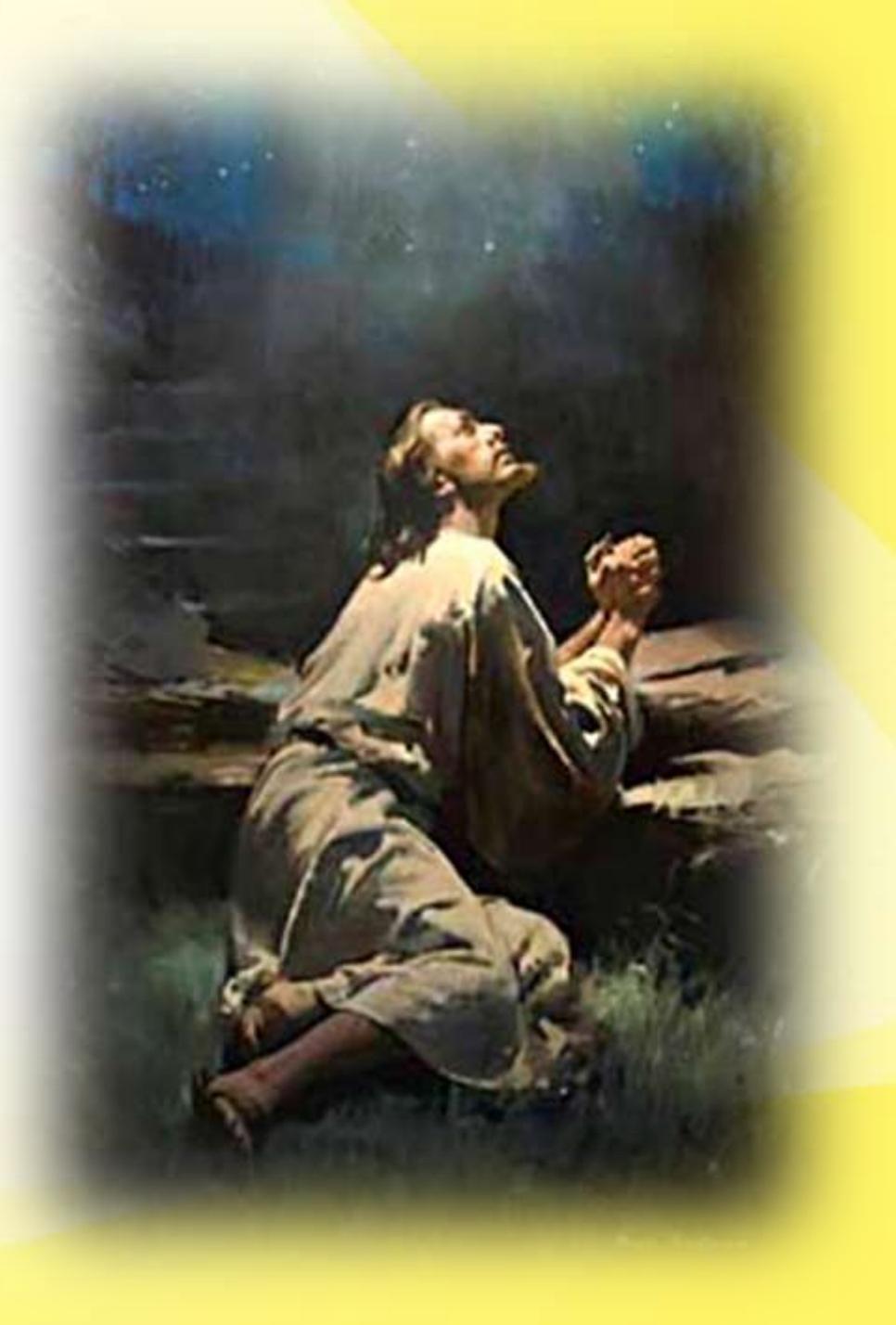


*Though He is the Son of God,
He strengthens His faith by
prayer, and by communion with
heaven gathers to Himself
power to resist evil and to
minister to the needs of men.....*

*His own example is an
assurance that earnest,
persevering supplication to God
in faith--faith that leads to entire
dependence upon God, and
unreserved consecration to His
work--will avail to bring to men
the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle
against sin. Acts of the Apostles
page 56*



He sought for strength to meet the foe, for the assurance that He would receive grace to carry out all that He had undertaken in behalf of humanity. (Letter 159, 1903).





Had Christ lived his earthly life in any nature other than our fallen nature then He would have failed to condemn sin in our fallen nature and would have failed to demonstrate what is possible in our fallen nature. Christ lived a life of sinlessness in our fallen human nature and thereby condemned sin in the flesh, in our flesh. Christ proved that our nature is no excuse for sinning and that obedience to God's law is possible in our fallen nature thus exposing Satan's lie and charge against God : "Satan, the fallen angel, had declared that no man could keep the law of God after the disobedience of Adam. He claimed the whole race under his control." {Selected Messages Vol. 3 pg.136.1}



In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17).

He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He knew no sin. He was the Lamb "without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). {1SM 256}

"Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man's nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been.... His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature. {Review and Herald, Feb. 18, 1890:}

How can we copy the “pattern” if we must live with a different nature than he had?



"But many say that Jesus was not like us, that He was not as we are in the world, that He was divine, and that we cannot overcome as He overcame. But Paul writes, 'Verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren.'" (Review and Herald, Apr. 1, 1892:)



THE EARTHLY LINIAGE OF JESUS CHRIST



**THE SOURCE OF HIS
FALLEN NATURE**

Christ would have inherited his nature through the flesh based on his lineage

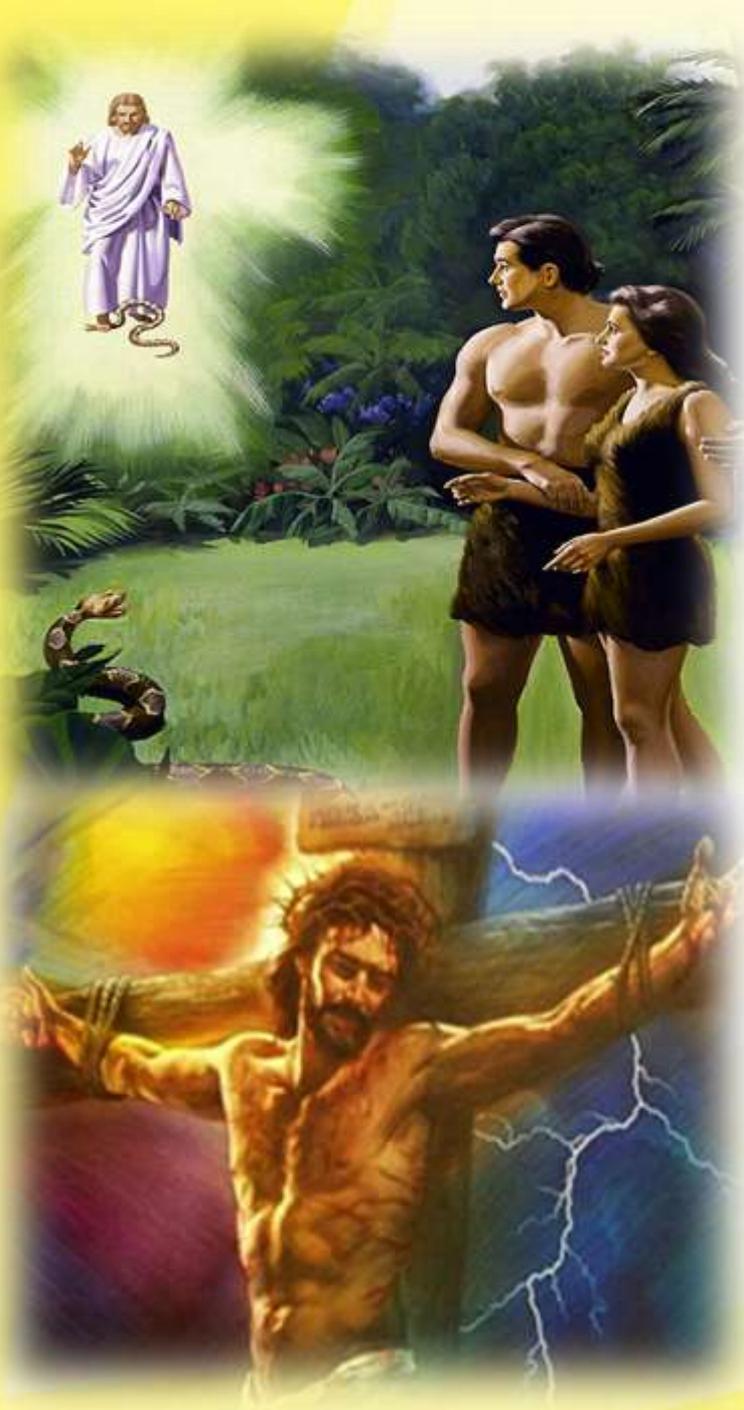


Genesis 3:15.

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

When Christ hung in agony upon the cross, while evil spirits rejoiced, and evil men reviled, then indeed his heel was bruised by Satan. But that very act was crushing the serpent's head.

The Review and Herald July 18, 1882





ABRAHAM

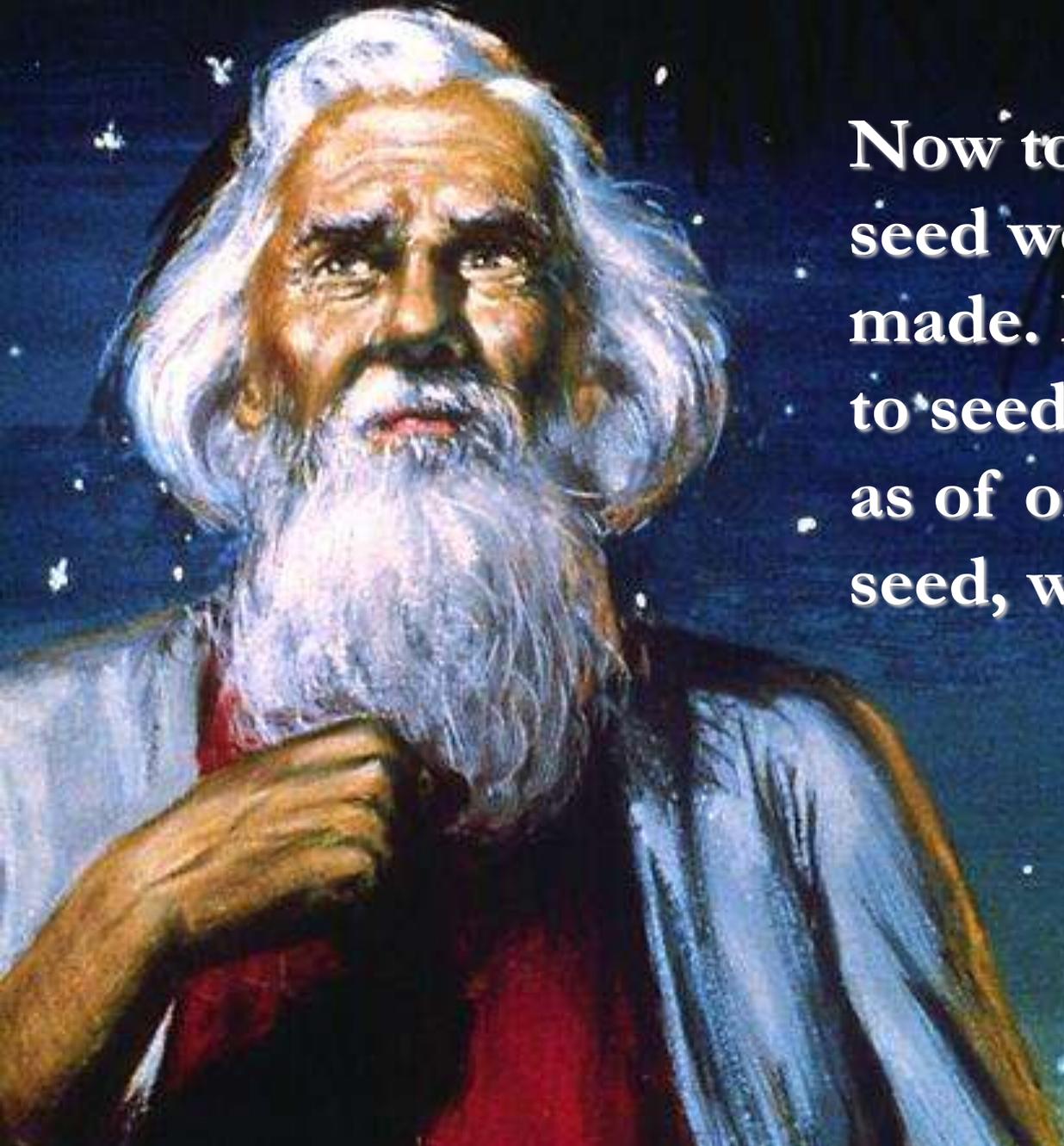
DAVID

Matthew 1: 1

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Galatians 3:16.

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ





Isaiah 11:1

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.“



Jeremiah 23: 5

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.



John 7:42

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was

Psalm 132:11, "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; He will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."



Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;



Acts 13:22,23

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. 23. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:



Romans 1:3-4

Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:



Revelation 22:16.

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.“

Luke 1: 41-43

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42. And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. 43. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?



Galatians 4: 4,5

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.





If Jesus did not have a physical earthly father, how does The word “Seed” apply to Him?

Jesus is said to be the “seed” of David and Abraham, their offspring. However there was no male involvement in his incarnation. If only men can have posterity or “seed” and Jesus only had a mother, how could he be the physical descendant of Abraham and David? Based on the teaching that only men can have seed many persons believe that Jesus was only the son of these men symbolically and thereby excluded from sinful nature.